

Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq (2)

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on 19 July 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Oh Muslims,

Allah the most high says "As for him who gives and is dutiful (toward God), And believes in goodness; Surely We will ease his way unto the state of ease " [Al-Lail 92:5-7] until He SWT (Glory be to Him, the Most High) says "Far removed from it (punishment in Next Life) will be the righteous, Who gives his wealth that he may grow (in goodness), And none has with him any favour for reward, Except as seeking (to fulfil) the purpose of his Lord Most High - indeed He will be content" [Al-Lail 92:16-21]

Many commentators said that these verses from the chapter of Al-Lail were revealed talking about Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq (may God be pleased with him); some have even said that there was unanimity between commentators that these verses were revealed about Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq. There is no doubt Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq was included in the general meaning of the verses as he is the most deserving person in this nation and he comes before anyone else in the scale of good deeds and noble manners. He was the one prophet peace be upon him (pbuh) said about ""the belief of Abu Baker will overweigh the belief of the rest of the Ummah if they were to be measured". He is the master who always comes first and he is the jurist and scholar who had no equivalent among the companions of the prophet (pbuh).

He was truthful, fearing God, generous, spending his wealth for the obedience of God and the support of his messenger (pbuh). He spent a lot of his wealth for the sake of God rather than in return for a favour that the recipient of his generosity had upon him.

Umar ibn Al-Khattab said: "The Prophet (pbuh) ordered us to give charity. It happened to coincide with some wealth I had just acquired and I said to myself: 'If I will ever surpass Abu Bakr this is the day I will surpass him'. And so I came to the Prophet (pbuh) with half of my wealth and he (pbuh) said to me: "What have you left for your family?" I said: 'The same amount'. Then Abu Bakr came with all of his wealth. The Prophet (pbuh) said to him: "What have you left for your family?" He said: I have left them God and His Messenger." I said: 'I will never surpass you in anything.'"

Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq lived all his life to serve Islam. He sacrificed his soul and his wealth for the sake of Islam. That is why the prophet (pbuh) said: "The person who has benefited me the most through his companionship and through his wealth is Abu Bakr" and in another hadith he (pbuh) said: "no wealth has benefited me more than the wealth of Abu Bakr", Abu Bakr started crying and said: "isn't me and my wealth but for you oh the messenger of God?"

He had 40,000 dinars or dirhams, before emigrating to Madina and by the time he emigrated to Madina he had only 5,000 left because he used to buy the slaves and the tortured weak Muslims and free them. He bought 7 of those who were tortured because of their belief: among them was Bilal Bin Rabah. Omar bin Al-Khatlab said: "Abu Bakr is our master and he freed our master".

Oh Muslim:

This noble manner was a distinguishing feature in the personality of Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq. It is the manner of giving and spending for the sake of God in charitable deeds, which distinguished Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq from the rest of the companions.

The conduct of Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq is saying to us:

those who spend for the sake of God in both good and difficult times are in the care and shelter of God. The angels pray for them and ask God to give them more. Those who hide and withheld their wealth shall expect none but loss and destruction.

Prophet (pbuh) said: "There is not a single day in which a servant wakes that two angels come down (from the Heavens). One of them says, O' God! Give to the one that spends and substitute (for what he has spent). And the other one says, 'O God! Give to the one that withholds (his money) destruction!" [Al-Bukhari]

God the Almighty in the words of the Prophet (pbuh) [i.e. Qudusi hadith] said: "spend, and I will spend on you" and He says in a verse "and nothing do you spend in the least (in His cause) but He replaces it: for He is the Best of those who grant Sustenance." [Saba 39:54]

Do not attach your soul to the rubble of this life as you will leave it one day for the inheritor of heavens and earth and you will go back to your Lord like He created you in the first time with no wealth or superiority. God says "soon shall the things which they covetously withheld be tied to their necks Like a twisted collar, on the Day of Judgment" [Al-Imran 3:180]

Oh Muslim:

You might desire wealth because you want to leave your children with a good status and with a wealth that protects them from the unexpected. This is a good intention as the Muslim is obliged to protect his offspring and save them from poverty and being needy from others. Islam has ordered us to do so, as the prophet (pbuh) said to Saad bin Abi Waqqas when he wanted to give all his money for charity "to leave your heirs well-off is better than that you should leave them dependent on and to beg from people"

But do not let this stop you from spending for the sake of God. God almighty says "Those who (in charity) spend of their goods by night and by day, in secret and in public, have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve." [Al-Baqara 2:274]. And in another verse "Give the kinsman his due, and the needy, and the wayfarer, and squander not (your wealth) in depravity, Lo! the squanderers were ever brothers of the devils, and the devil was ever an ingrate to his Lord" [Al-Israa 17:26-27]